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# SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD

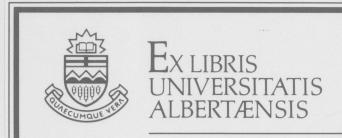


THE CRAFT HOUSE, FORT QU'APPELLE

# NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY FIRST TO DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST

1956



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# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

### OCT 12 1988

GOVERNMENT. PUBLICATIONS

# **MEMBERS**

of the

## SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD, 1956

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Mrs. A. S. Morton, Saskatoon

Mr. E. W. Stinson, Regina

MISS NORAH McCullough, Executive Secretary, Regina (on leave of absence).

Miss Blodwen Davies, Executive Secretary (Pro Tem)

### STAFF

Assistant to the Executive Secretary		Miss	MURIEL COLE
Director of Handicraft Festivals		MRS.	Jean Howard
Drama Consultant	N	MRS. FI	ORENCE JAMES
Secretary	Miss I	Eileen	HALLSWORTH
Staff Potter (Fort Qu'Appelle)		M	IR. DAVID ROSS

The Honourable W. S. Lloyd, Minister of Education, Legislative Buildings, Regina, Saskatchewan.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of the Act of the Provincial Legislature establishing the Saskatchewan Arts Board (March, 1949), I submit herewith a report on the activities of the Board for the period January 1st to December 31st, 1956.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. A. RIDDELL,
Chairman.

February 21, 1957.

# SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD

Too many of us get into the habit of not learning. The purpose of the Saskatchewan Arts Board is to encourage and conserve the adult capacity for continuous learning. This applies not to the academic fields, but to the cultural areas, the fine arts, music, drama, the folk arts of all kinds, the manual skills, such as spinning, weaving, wood carving or pottery, folk music, folk dancing, and all other creative activities which we need to practice and promote for the nourishment of the creative impulses in men and women. The Board's commission is to work with the adult population, particularly with the people of the rural areas, the towns and smaller cities, where access to the means of practice and appreciation of these things is likely to be more limited than in the larger cities.

"The Saskatchewan Arts Board was established by the (Adult Education) division on the basis that greater opportunities should be provided for the people of the province to share in cultural activities. The set-up of the Arts Board also recognizes the principle that people should have more control of policies and programs than they often do in modern society. To accomplish both of these purposes the Board of representative citizens was set up with staff and funds, given complete control of policy and programs, and freedom to initiate and co-ordinate in whatever ways it thought best the cultural growth of people in Saskatchewan." (Saskatchewan Community Bulletin, Vol. 5, No. 1. August, 1953, Adult Education Division, Policy Review).



New offices of The Saskatchewan Arts Board. Photographed while a two-week weaving school was in session

### HANDICRAFTS AND FOLK ARTS

The folk arts have been described variously as "the humanities of the common people" or "the spiritual side of nationality." The word handicraft is so misused in this era of commercialized "busy work" that the phrase folk arts describes more precisely the work of the Handicraft division of the Board. Quebec, the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia have made good use of their folk cultures to develop leisure time activities and supplementary incomes for their citizens.

No province in Canada has any comparable survey of the resources of the handicrafts to that which has been carried on for seven years in Saskatchewan under the leadership of Mrs. Arthur S. Morton, Chairman of the Handicraft Committee, and Mrs. Jean Howard, Director of Handicraft Festivals. An evaluation of all the records of this department, and a summing up of the skills of the workers is now under way. Preparation for the fortieth festival is also in hand. More than 45,000 people have registered at the thirty-nine festivals, already sponsored by the Board, which means that probably fifty per cent more people have actually attended.

The Festivals are two-day affairs. The Board pays all the expenses. Mrs. Howard, accompanied by some other member of the staff, arrives a day before the Festival and sets up the exhibits. Several hundred items are involved, and entry forms and records for every festival are systematically kept.

The Festival in Sheho on October 13 and 14, 1956, is typical of the series. Here is a prairie town with a population of 300, and a row of elevators along the railway track. In two days more than twelve hundred people registered at the Festival hall.

Local displays and demonstrations highlighted the Torquay Handicraft Festival held on November 1 and 2. David Ross demonstrated pottery to enthusiastic audiences. Since early December, Torquay has purchased three floor looms and is preparing for a weaving class in March, conducted by Mrs. Jean Howard.

The main features of the St. Walburg Festival on November 9 and 10 were leathers (from local hides), wood, quilts and weaving. The people in this area have done considerable work with local straw, weaving and braiding.

Handicraft Festivals were conceived as a way of meeting the recommendations of the first Provincial Conference on Handicraft called by the Saskatchewan Arts Board in 1949. They point up to the people of Saskatchewan what they themselves can do and are doing, and the rich resources in skills and creativity which exist here.

#### HANDICRAFT CONFERENCE

In February, 1956, a second Provincial Conference was held at the Provincial Museum. The Chairman of the Handicraft Committee, Mrs. Morton, opened the conference with fifty-three persons present. Miss Mary Black, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, was guest lecturer and consultant. Dr. W. A. Riddell, Chairman of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, outlined the work done during the seven-year program of the Board.

The speaker at the luncheon meeting was the Hon. W. S. Lloyd, Minister of Education. Handicrafts, he said, as defined in the Massey Report, refer to individual products of usefulness and beauty, created by individuals, usually on a small scale, preferably begun and finished by one person, from materials available in their own locality and often in their own community. The Saskatchewan Arts Board set out to accom-

plish four things in the field of handicrafts: (1) to establish standards; (2) to encourage production; (3) to survey the interests, skills and resources in the province; (4) to provide teaching services by using the skills of people in the province who are available on a part-time basis and by recruiting professional craftsmen from anywhere they are available.

Handicrafts do not exist in a vacuum. They form one of the ways in which people make better use of their leisure time with the result that the community benefits. People are naturally creative, though not all in the same way. Most people have somewhere within them the seeds of creativity. One of the functions of our society is to make it possible for all people to realize, as fully as possible, their creative capacity. If we are going to have a good society, we must create. We must provide an atmosphere in which these things can happen and out of which will come the new ideas which provide the changes which are essential. There is a tendency today to be materialistic. The Saskatchewan Arts Board is empowered to provide a different kind of incentive-an antidote to materialism. We should aim to provide the kind of atmosphere in which people can become creative. We must have new ideas if we are to realize our potentialities, said Mr. Lloyd.

Mrs. Morton raised the question as to what efforts, if any, were being made to channel minor crafts into more desirable channels. Delegates pointed out that child-level activities for adults were as poor as adult-level activities for children and that there should be a change from 'quick' crafts to the use of more enduring materials, e.g., wood, leather, stone, metal and wool. Even with hand tools, these more demanding materials could be successfully used.

Demanding materials gave in the end more satisfaction by providing a sense of real achievement.

One of the outcomes of this conference was a strong recommendation to the Department of Education, The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation executive, to Dr. Ferns of the University of Saskatchewan Summer School, and to Dr. Tait of the Department of Education, that courses in creative handicrafts and folk arts be offered each summer for teachers and youth leaders interested in this field and that such courses be related to teacher certification.

#### **NEW PROJECTS**

The handicraft division have undertaken two new projects. The first of these is the setting up of a travelling exhibition, in specially designed cases, of fine traditional Indian handicraft from private collections and the Board's permanent collection. These will be sent to every Indian Agency in the province to let the Indians concerned acquire a greater knowledge of their own cultural history. The second project emerged from a request to the Board to provide an exhibition of fine Saskatchewan handicrafts and folk arts, books and pictures for the meeting of the International Council of Women in Montreal in June, 1957.

This year the Provincial Library produced a brochure on books on handicrafts. This is a list with notes built up by the chief librarian, Miss Mary Donaldson, as a result of the years of co-operation between the Provincial Library and the Saskatchewan Arts Board. The Board has been most grateful for the vision and activity of this library in regularly providing displays of books on handicrafts at all the Festivals.

### VISUAL ART

#### JUNIOR ART EXHIBITION

The Junior Art Exhibition for 1956 was first hung at the Saskatchewan Teachers' College, Saskatoon, and then transferred to Central Collegiate, Regina, before beginning the circuit of provincial centers for the year 1957. This Exhibition was judged by Mrs. Dorothy Perehudoff and Roy Kiyooka. The prize winners were the following:

Norbert Kemp, Regina, Reeves and Sons (Toronto) sketch box; Dan Fraser, Regina, Hughes-Owens, Winnipeg, prize of a fitted sketch box; Teddy Hilts, Moose Jaw, Sherwin-Williams, Winnipeg, artist's easel; Pat Amon, Regina, James Art Studio, Saskatoon, prize of an artist's easel; Louise Walters, Saskatoon, Hobby Supplies and Handicrafts, Regina, prize of an artist's carrying case; Ted Knight, Saskatoon, received a water color sketch box from Hobby Supplies and Handicrafts, Regina; Gordon Holdner, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Arts Board gift of an Indian birch bark carrying bag; Linda Glemser, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Arts Board gift of a pottery piece; Lenora Garcia, Moose Jaw, received a special prize for her sculpture entry, donated by the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

Purchase prizes donated by the Saskatchewan Arts Board were awarded to the following, as selected by the judges: Gordon Holdner, Saskatoon, "Flower Abstraction, 1956"; Elizabeth Newell, Regina, "Thumbing"; Leah Martinka, Bruno, "Autumn Leaves and Seeds"; Gilbert Graboski, Regina, "Tempera Scene"; Gloria Toombs, Regina, "Non-Objective"; Dan Fraser, Regina, "Sunrise".

There were 106 entries, and 61 were selected for the Exhibition.

#### 7th ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

The 7th Annual Art Exhibition, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Arts Board, was held in the MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, from February 28 to March 11, 1956. Open to all adult Saskatchewan artists, the exhibition was evaluated and judged by jurors from outside the Province, namely, Maxwell Bates of Coste House, Calgary, and Raymond E. Obermayer, of State College, Idaho. Approximately two hundred and forty-eight made entries and forty-five works were accepted for exhibit.

Two compositions were purchased by the Saskatchewan Arts Board and added to their permanent collection of Saskatchewan paintings, namely "Grass in Winter", an oil painted by A. F. McKay, and "Abstract", a serigraph by Mrs. Trudy Fisher.

During the year the 7th Annual Art Exhibition was viewed at Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Rosthern, Star City and White Fox.

Awards of merit were made to: Eli Bornstein, Saskatoon, for his serigraph print "The Tower"; D. G. Evans of Fort Qu'Appelle for a small oil "Morning Chorus"; John Nugent, Lumsden, for a sculptured brass crucifix; Mrs. Clara Samuels, Regina, for her painting "Home, Regina"; J. G. Wyers, Windthorst, for the oil "The First Saskatchewan Harvest"; and A. F. McKay of Regina for an oil "Suburb".

#### SCHOLARSHIP AID

Mrs. H. A. Dyde of Edmonton, a Trustee of the National Gallery of Canada, for the second year donated a sum of money, \$250.00, through the Canadian Foundation for scholarship purposes to the Saskatchewan Arts Board, enabling

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one student from each of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Colleges to attend the University Summer Art Course at Emma Lake. Aid was also given to two students to attend the Artists Seminar at Emma Lake. Two students received the funds to attend Mr. Nowicki's oil painting class at the University of Saskatchewan and one student was able to attend the Workshop at Fort Qu'Appelle.

#### TRAVELLING ART EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions received from the Western Canadian Art Circuit included "Methods and Materials for the Artist"; "Pisano Sculpture from the Pisa Baptistery"; "Catlin Historical Lithographs"; "The Romance of Playing Cards"; and "Still Life—20th Century". These exhibitions were displayed at various places throughout the province, including the North Central Saskatchewan Regional Library at Prince Albert, the Public Library at Swift Current, the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Central

Collegiate in Regina and the Museum of Natural History in Regina.

The Saskatchewan Arts Board Travelling Gallery of original Saskatchewan paintings was shown at the North Central Saskatchewan Regional Library at Prince Albert. Ten framed "Golden Jubilee Water Colours" painted by Ernest Luthi of Punnichy were hanging in the Saskatchewan Transportation Bus Depot, Regina for four months.

A new kind of Festival was instituted late in 1956 when a request came from Craik for a follow-up program to a Festival held in 1955, Jubilee Year. This was a Picture Festival, built up around an exhibition of pictures, largely prints, including silk screen prints, all Canadian, and some original works by Saskatchewan artists. This was an experiment in the enjoyment of art and also a means of making known to the schools of the region what is available in inexpensive reproductions of Canadian pictures.



Pottery produced at the Craft Shop, Fort Qu'Appelle, by the Staff Potter. David Ross

### MUSIC

#### MUSIC

The Saskatchewan Arts Board continued to sponsor the Young Musicians' Series featuring the following soloists: Miss Sylvia Stuart (soprano), Unity; Mrs. Elizabeth Rogoman Boychuk (violinist) of Saskatoon; Howard MacDonald (baritone), Regina; and pianists Boyd McDonald and Douglas Voice of Saskatoon.

Taras Gabora, a native Saskatchewan violinist, visited in Canora, Saskatchewan, during the summer months. Back from Vienna, Austria, Mr. Gabora anticipated a series of recitals and the Saskatchewan Arts Board, in its program of supporting good music in Saskatchewan communities, assisted with the arrangement of concerts.

Hugh Bancroft, organist and choirmaster from Winnipeg, conducted the three-day Choral Singing Courses held at Westminster United Church in Saskatoon, and St. Mary's Anglican Church in Regina. These Choral Workshops were a great success and the enthusiasm of both the Director and the students warrants a similar course in 1957.

Eight \$25.00 awards, donated by the Sas-katchewan Arts Board, were merited by semi-finalists in the Music Festivals and assisted them in taking part in the finals at Saskatoon.

The Saskatchewan Arts Board presented the Regina Symphony Orchestra with a grant of \$35 to purchase a score. The newly formed Symphony Orchestra at Moose Jaw also received the same grant.



PRAIRIE FARM, by Reta Summers Cowley
From the permanent collection of The Saskatchewan Arts Board

### DRAMA

Drama in the Province has had a lively activity largely due to the Drama Workshop last August. Five scholarships were granted by the Saskatchewan Arts Board to teachers and community leaders, two scholarships by the Balfour Technical High School and one by Scott Collegiate to talented students to advance the work in the schools. These have improved the skills and techniques for the advancement of drama work in the province.

Early in the year the Consultant gave demonstrations at Balfour Technical School on the use of improvisations in the development of play material and the learning of acting techniques. At the end of two months an evening of drama improvisations by the students created a play around the character of a young man in a poor family situation, rejected by his young contempories, who gets into trouble as a delinquent.

This play was then written by the students, the development of the plot and the resolution of the problem showing imaginative insight far in advance of the trite plays too often used by High School Drama Clubs.

Adjudications of High School Festivals took place at Oxbow, Weyburn and Central Collegiate in Regina. Adjudication provides excellent teaching situations.

Workshops were held in North Battleford and Yorkton for groups entering plays in the Regional Festival in March of 1957 in Saskatoon. A Community Drama Project is underway at Fort Qu'Appelle and theatre groups are being organized in Weyburn and Swift Current.

In talks given by the Consultant all over the province the present cultural development and the contribution made to it by the Community Theatres training the Canadian talent, is emphasized.

Adult groups in the province have discovered in Role Playing new opportunities for present-

Drama in the Province has had a lively ing, at their meetings, problems facing the tivity largely due to the Drama Workshop last group by dramatizing them. This is far more ugust. Five scholarships were granted by the skatchewan Arts Board to teachers and comularly when followed by discussion.

Mrs. James assisted the Provincial Library Workshop, conducted for the Regina Library Association, to present in this dramatic form the problem of persuading leaders in a community to establish library services. The Human Relations Institute held in Moose Jaw in February and the Farm Women's Week in Saskatoon in June used Role Playing at their conferences.

A ten-week course in public speaking was given at the Y.W.C.A., Regina, during the fall months. This course dealt primarily with extemporaneous public speaking. The class had an opportunity to discover for themselves that on subjects with which they were familiar they could learn to express themselves without memorization or even notes to assist them.

A project in speech and interpretation for radio commentators and announcers has been started at CHAB in Moose Jaw. This class is designed to give radio people, whose business is communication, an opportunity to explore the possibilities of their medium. Speech is a learned activity, and it follows that it can be poorly learned. It is an advantage to them to have their attention called to the qualities of speech. This course enables them to acquire a speech awareness, develop the love of sound and meanings of words and the ideas expressed. Radio and television carry a responsibility for the dissemination of all forms of culture and as speech is imitated, only the best should be used in these mediums.

The speech course at CHAB is a pilot project and if successful can be offered to other stations interested in this help to the announcers and commentators.

### SERVICES OF THE BOARD

#### WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Twenty-one people attended the Fifth Annual Writers' Workshop held July 28 to August 12, 1956, at Fort Qu'Appelle, under the direction of W. O. Mitchell of High River, Alberta. The course, held primarily to encourage beginning writers, also provided coaching and criticisms to more mature writers.

The Writers' Workshop Scholarships, to the value of \$75.00, given by the Saskatchewan Arts Board, were awarded to Mrs. Elizabeth Sherman, Mrs. Edna Ulmer, Mrs. Pat Armstrong, Miss Geri Wudrick and Jack Art.

#### DRAMA WORKSHOP

Mrs. Florence James, drama consultant for the Saskatchewan Arts Board, directed the sixth season of the Drama Workshop which opened July 28, 1956, at Valley Centre. Students received intensive daily instruction in acting techniques, play direction, stage designing, lighting and make-up from the director. Fred Youens of Seattle, an expert instructor in the building and painting of sets, lighting and all backstage activities assisted, as did Mrs. Violet Voaden of Toronto, a specialist in the art of make-up.

At the conclusion of the Workshop, two oneact plays were produced by the students, the "Old Ragpicker" by Theodore Dreiser and "Magic Lake" by Anne B. Flavelle of Saskatoon (a play which won an award by the Golden Jubilee Committee in the literary competition for provincial writers, 1955).

Five scholarships, to the value of \$75.00 each, donated by the Saskatchewan Arts Board, went to five promising students: Don Acaster, North Battleford; Miss Mary Greer, Weyburn

Robert Johnson, Oxbow; Bill Powell, Regina; and Mrs. Adeheid Vockeroth, Sturgis.

#### STUDENT LOANS

The Executive of the Saskatchewan Arts Board have been given the responsibility, by the Minister of Education, of making recommendations to the Student Aid Committee concerning students seeking financial aid to continue advanced studies in the arts.

During the year, the Saskatchewan Arts Board Executive approved the applications of the following students: A. F. McKay, artist; Miss Rose Schmalz, soprano; and Taras Gabora, violinist.

# BRIEF TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON TELEVISION

The Saskatchewan Arts Board, represented by Mrs. W. L. Oddie, Mrs. Florence James, Sid. Boyling and K. G. Aberdeen, submitted a brief to the Royal Commission on Television Broadcasting in May, containing the views and recommendations of the Board concerning the development of Television Broadcasting.

#### NEW QUARTERS

During the past year, when so much reorganization in government agencies arose out of the opening of the new Administration Building in Regina, the Saskatchewan Arts Board was separated from the Adult Education Division with which it had shared offices for many years. Adult Education moved into the new government building, but the Saskatchewan Arts Board went into excellent quarters in an older government building at 1150 Rose Street.

Here on the third floor the Saskatchewan Arts Board staff now have plenty of space and light for all its work. To celebrate the new regime the office acquired a fine handbound guest book in which to register distinguished and interesting visitors such as Donald Buchanan of the National Gallery and Dr. Stewart Wallace, who were among the first to call. The Saskatchewan Society of Artists has also been entertained at the office and after the December Board Meeting, the members of the Saskatchewan Arts Board had tea at the office and inspected the new quarters.

#### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Minister of Education informed the Saskatchewan Arts Board in late February that newly appointed Saskatchewan Arts Board members were: Mrs. M. K. Edwards of Melfort, Mrs. Laura D. Logie of North Battleford, and Mr. K. G. Aberdeen of Swift Current.

#### **PROJECTS**

The Saskatchewan Arts Board's offices serve as a clearing house for information in every field in which the Board is empowered to act. There are many ways in which the Saskatchewan Arts Board can encourage the development of creative and research projects in Saskatchewan by the work of liaison and co-ordination.

A minor project of the Board was the printing of a set of eight postcards which show the activities of the Board in Festivals and drama.

#### STAFF

In July, 1956, the Board engaged David Ross, of Winnipeg, as staff potter at the Craft House

at Fort Qu'Appelle. Mr. Ross came straight from two years' study in the Scandinavian countries and England. In addition to his competence as a potter, Mr. Ross is a person with an enthusiasm for clay that makes him a popular teacher and demonstrator. He has also been searching for and experimenting with native clays.

The executive secretary, Miss Norah McCullough, was awarded a Federal Government fellowship to spend a year in France. She left for Europe in September. Miss Blodwen Davies, author and folklorist, is temporarily filling the post of executive secretary.

#### SASKATCHEWAN COMMUNITY

The 1956 issues of 'Saskatchewan Community', a bulletin published jointly by the Saskatchewan Arts Board and the Adult Education Division, appeared under the following headings: "The University of Saskatchewan Medical Centre", written by Dr. J. Wendell MacLeod, M.D., Dean of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, in connection with the opening of the University Hospital; "Education—Everybody's Business", composed in support of Education Week, 1956; "Our Weather-Come Rust, Come Drought or High Water", especially prepared by James Harrington, M.A., of the Meteorological Services of Canada, Montreal, to discuss the present state of meterology, its future and its effect on the prairie resident; "CBC in Reply to Listeners", an extract from the program 'In Reply', conducted by J. Frank Willis; and "Can We Feed the World's Growing Population", arranged by Timothy Ryan of the Adult Education Division, Melfort.

#### THE SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD

# THE SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD FUND STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For the Year Ended December 31, 1956

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Grant—Province of SaskatchewanArt—Exhibition Fees, Sales of Catalogues, Sundry	\$	28,200.00 261.50	
Music—Concerts and Fees.		399.00	
Drama—Class Fees, Admissions to Plays, Sundry		321.05	
Writers—Class Fees		60.00	
Handicrafts—Fees, Sale of Materials		137.35	
Students' Board and Room		1,935.50	
Bank Interest		124.19	
Miscellaneous Income		10.80	31,449.39
Total Receipts		<u> </u>	
Cash in Bank, January 1, 1956.			9.256.78
		_	
		\$ =	40,706.17
Payments:			
Travel and Sustenance, Board Meetings	\$	1,534.77	
Office Salaries		3,577.60	
Art Projects		2,503.09	
Music Projects		1,685.46	
Drama Projects		5,563.16	
Handicraft Projects—Festival		4,175.44	
Handicraft Projects—Craft Shop		4,487.57	
Radio Projects		47.98	
Writers' Projects		1,101.67	
Advertising and Publicity		489.06	
Insurance		209.71	
Printing, Stationery and SuppliesPublications		$339.45 \\ 751.32$	
Telephone and Telegraph		304.65	
Miscellaneous Expenses		186.85	
Students' Board and Room		1,935.50	
Students Board and Room.			28,893.28
Scholarships and Bursaries:			
—Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee Committee		150.00	
—Canadian Foundation		225.00	
Capital Expenditures:			375.00
—Electric Meter Deposit	P	3.00	
—Sewer and Water Connections		$\frac{3.00}{138.00}$	
—Purchase of Pictures			
—Furchase of Fictures—Equipment Purchases		$275.00 \\ 104.77$	
—Equipment Furchases —Furnishing Purchases		71.98	
—Furnishing Furenases		11.30	592.75
Total Payments		\$	29 861 03
Cash in Bank, December 31, 1956			10,845.14
		\$	40,706.17

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